श्री दत्ता मेघे: सर, आपके माध्यम से मैं यह पूछना चाहता हूं कि क्या महाराष्ट्र में दो विशेष आर्थिक ज़ोन दे रहे हैं? पिछली बार आपने कहा था कि नागपुर में देंगे, तो आप वहां आर्थिक ज़ोन दे रहे हैं या नहीं दे रहे हैं? आप हमारे पड़ोसी हैं, नेता हैं, आपने पिछली बार कहा था, तो नागपुर की ज़ोन्स के बारे में बताइए।

श्री कमल नाथ: सर, यह बात सही है कि मैं इनका पड़ोसी हूं और ये भी मेरे पड़ोसी हैं। यह बात भी कोई गलत नहीं है कि नागपुर को प्राथमिकता स्वाभाविक रूप से मिलनी चाहिए। और नागपुर को प्राथमिकता मिलेगी। ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Review of military laws

*43. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to review military laws;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that in several cases it has been noted that the punishment was not commensurate with the offences committed; and

(d) whether Government have received any recommendation to review the military laws?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d) Review of military laws is a continuous process. These laws are amended from time to time as per operational needs of the Armed Forces as also to bring them in consonance with latest judicial pronouncements and development. So far sixteen (16) amendments have been made in the three Armed Forces Acts i.e. the Army Act, 1950, the Navy Act, 1957 and the Air Force Act, 1950.

The punishments awarded under the provisions of the military laws are decided by the competent Courts Martial or authorities keeping in view the nature or gravity of the offence committed. The relevant Armed

Forces Acts empower the competent authorities to remit, mitigate or commute the sentence where so warranted. The aggrieved personnel also have right to seek redressal in appropriate courts. In some cases the High Courts or the Supreme Court have provided suitable relief to the petitioners.

In the existing system of administration of justice in the Armed Forces, there is no provision for an independent adjudicatory form for hearing appeals against the judgment of Courts Martial or for hearing complaints of defence personnel relatting to service matters. The Supreme Court, Law Commission and the Estimates Committee of Parliament had earlier drawn attention to this aspect and made recommendations in this regard. The issue was also engaging the attention of the Government for quite some time. After careful consideration the Government has proposed to set up an independent Armed Forces Tribunal and accordingly a Bill was introduced in Rajya Sabha on 20.12.2005. The Bill was referred to the Standing Committee on Defence by the Hon'ble Speaker for examination. The Standing Committee in its 10th report related to Armed Forces Tribunal Bill, 2005, presented to the Lok Sabha on 23rd May 2006 and laid on the table of Rajya Sabha on the same date, have made several recommendations on the Bill.

The Standing Committee has also suggested that an Expert Committee be constituted to thoroughly review the Service Acts to bring them in tune with the norms being followed in other democratic countries. The Standing Committee has further desired that since the proposed Tribunal would deal with cases of all the three forces, a common disciplinary code be made so as to bring uniformity in dispensation of justice to the Armed Forces Personnel.

Amendments in Labour Laws

*45. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to amend the Industrial Disputes Act and other labour laws, in order to facilitate and encourage foreign investments;

(b) the areas in which amendments are contemplated;